



## Welcome to Marlow

Marlow is without doubt one of the loveliest locations on the River Thames. Situated on a broad sweep of the river between Henley and Windsor and within the Chiltern Hills which is designated an Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty. It has a lively town centre made up of historic streets with small listed buildings and offers an array of shops, restaurants, wine bars and pubs which all add to Marlow's charm. The town's main landmark is the graceful suspension bridge which spans the Thames joining Buckinghamshire and Berkshire. It was completed in 1832 to designs by William Tierney Clark who also designed the bridge across the Danube in Budapest. Marlow's earlier bridges all crossed the river from St Peter Street, one of the oldest and most picturesque parts of the town. The Thames made Marlow what it is today,

putting it on the map first as a river crossing and then as an inland port. In the late 18th and 19th centuries Marlow became a fashionable riverside resort and a variety of famous people were attracted to live in the town. Past residents have included Thomas Love Peacock, Jerome K. Jerome, T.S. Eliot and the poet Shelley and his wife who completed her gothic masterpiece Frankenstein whilst living in Marlow. The 18th century also saw the arrival of Dr Battie, a specialist in nervous diseases from whose name the term 'batty' is said to have sprung. He designed and built Court Garden House in Higginson Park, but absent-mindedly forgot to include a staircase! To find out more about Marlow's historical highlights visit Marlow Visitor Information Service to purchase a copy of the town walk.

## Events

- May**  
**Pub in the Park:** Tom Kerridge brings to Marlow his glorious food festival. You can expect a vast array of food and drink delights combined with great live music, chef demonstrations, top quality shopping and other festival fun.  
[www.pubintheparkuk.com](http://www.pubintheparkuk.com)
- June**  
**Marlow Regatta and Festival:** Marlow's premier sporting and social occasion features a traditional rowing regatta followed by festival day with dragon boat racing and heaps of family entertainment.  
[www.marlowtownregatta.org](http://www.marlowtownregatta.org)
- Rock Bottom:** An open air family concert featuring fantastic live music and lots of entertainment.  
[www.marlowrockbottom.com](http://www.marlowrockbottom.com)
- July**  
**Swan Upping:** This traditional 12th century swan census ceremony is led by the Queen's Swan Marker which sees the mute Swans on the River Thames caught, marked and then released.  
[www.royal.gov.uk](http://www.royal.gov.uk)
- September**  
**Marlow Carnival:** A popular annual carnival held at Higginson Park in support of Marlow Community Association charity.  
[www.marlowcarnival.co.uk](http://www.marlowcarnival.co.uk)
- November**  
**Marlow Half Marathon:** An established and popular event with a challenging course starting at Higginson Park.  
[www.marlowhalf.marlowstriders.co.uk](http://www.marlowhalf.marlowstriders.co.uk)
- December**  
**Traditional Late Night Shopping:** The High Street is filled with an array of stalls, lots of festive entertainment and shops remain open late.  
[www.marlowchamber.com](http://www.marlowchamber.com)
- Santa Fun Run:** Watch or take part in this fundraising event which sees hundreds of Santas running and walking 5k.  
[www.santastunrun.org](http://www.santastunrun.org)
- For more details on events in and around Marlow visit or contact Marlow Visitor Information Service.*

## Marlow Visitor Information Service

Whether you are visiting for the day, enjoying a short break, or already a resident looking for some inspiration then contact Marlow Visitor Information Service. The friendly team are on hand to help you explore Marlow and discover all it has to offer.

- Attractions and places to visit
- Local travel timetables
- Local event information and box office
- Accommodation enquiries
- Walking and cycling leaflets, books and maps
- Postcards, greeting cards
- Local gifts and souvenirs

### Marlow Visitor Information Service

Marlow Library, Institute Road  
 Marlow, Bucks, SL7 1BL

**Phone**  
 +44(0)1296 382415

**Email**  
 lib-mar@buckscc.gov.uk

**Opening hours**  
 Tuesday 10am to 6pm  
 Wednesday and Friday 10am to 5pm  
 Thursday and Saturday 10am to 4pm  
 Sunday and Monday CLOSED

**Visit**  
[www.wycombe.gov.uk/tourism](http://www.wycombe.gov.uk/tourism)

### VISIT MIDSOMER

Follow in the footsteps of Midsomer Murders DCI Barnaby on a self-guided trail from Marlow to discover local filming locations used in the hit TV series. Covering only 17 miles you will quickly find yourself immersed in 'Midsomer' and all it has to offer including spectacular scenery, food and drink, walking routes and a choice of places to stay.

Pick up a copy of the trail leaflet from:  
**Marlow Visitor Information Service** or visit  
[www.visitbuckinghamshire.org/midsomer](http://www.visitbuckinghamshire.org/midsomer).

## Travel and Transport

### By Road

Marlow is easily reached from London, Oxford and the Midlands via the M40 and from London Heathrow and the South West via the M4.

### By Rail

Marlow station sits on the First Great Western branch line. Services run every hour between Marlow and Maidenhead before joining the London Paddington to Reading mainline. Travelling from Marlow to London Paddington takes just over 1 hour.

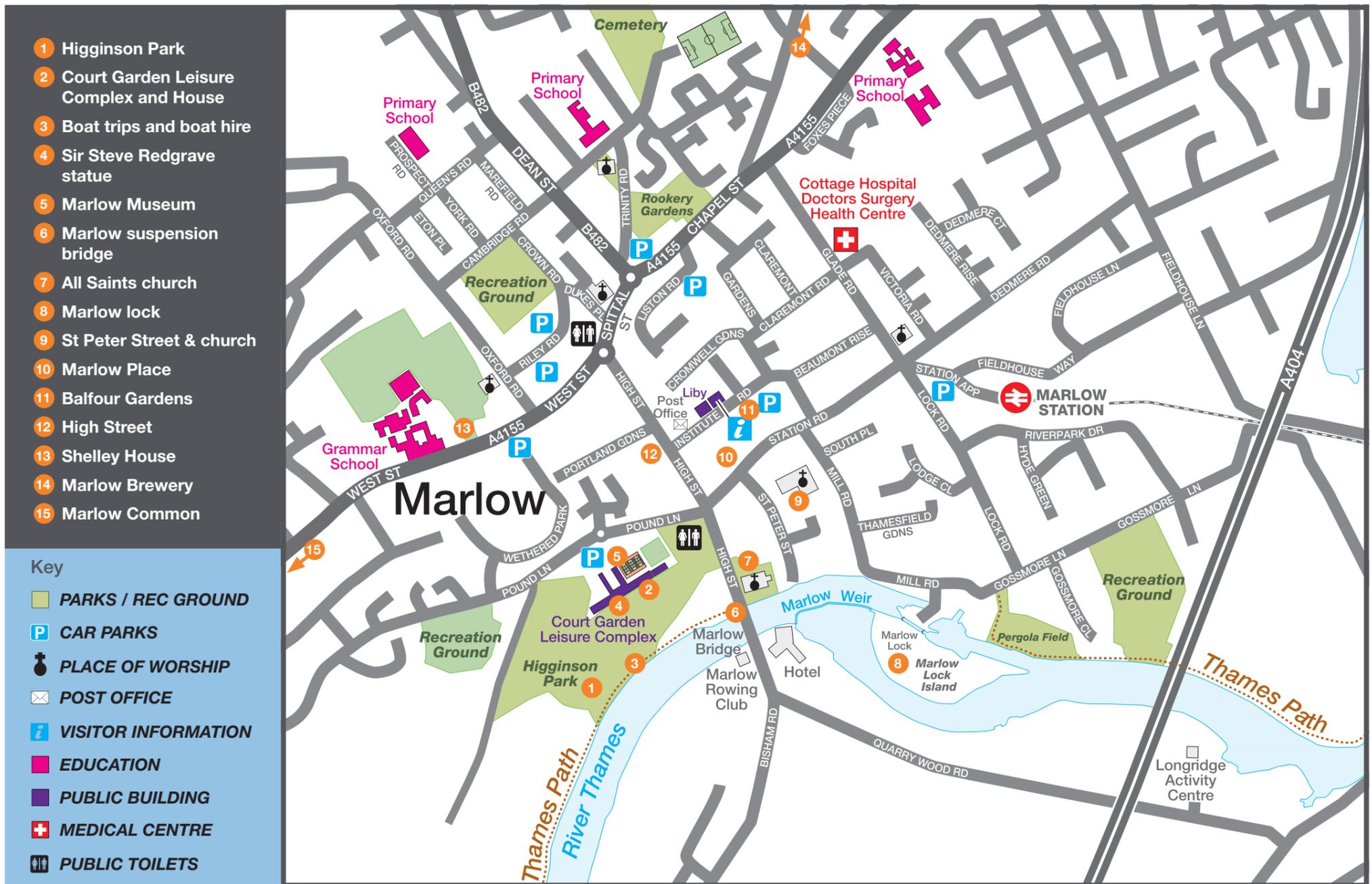
### By Bus

The 800/850 bus service travels between High Wycombe and Reading up to every 30 minutes, stopping at Marlow and Henley. High Wycombe bus station which is a 20 minute journey from Marlow is well served with regular bus links to surrounding towns and villages and National Express coach services to Oxford and Luton and Stansted airports.



## Explore Marlow





## Points of Interest

- 1 **Higginson Park** – 23 acres of lawns and stunning flowerbeds set beside the River Thames featuring a large play area, skate park and café.
- 2 **Court Garden Leisure Complex and House** – facilities include swimming pool, gym, sports hall, squash court, outdoor tennis courts, cafe and wedding and conference rooms in Court Garden House.
- 3 **Boat trips and boat hire** – in season rowing and motor boats are available for hire and Salter's Steamers operate passenger cruises to Henley, Windsor and Temple Lock.
- 4 **Sir Steve Redgrave statue** – A statue of Marlow's five time Olympic rowing hero unveiled by Her Majesty the Queen in 2002.
- 5 **Marlow Museum** - a small local history museum open all year. Summer: Saturday and Sunday 1-5pm, Wednesday 2 – 5pm. Winter: Sunday 2-4pm. Bank holidays: 1-5pm.
- 6 **Marlow suspension bridge** – completed in 1832 to designs by William Tierney Clarke who also designed the bridge across the Danube in Budapest.
- 7 **All Saints church** – erected in 1835 on the site of an 11th century church with a spire that soars 170 foot above the town.
- 8 **Marlow lock** – provides a stunning view point over the town and river, it is busy in season with passing pleasure boats.
- 9 **St Peter Street** – Home to a number of historical buildings including The Old Parsonage and St Peters Church which is said to house the mummified hand of St James the Apostle.
- 10 **Marlow Place** – the finest Georgian house in Marlow built for the Earl of Portsmouth circa 1720 and now a grade 1 listed building.
- 11 **Balfour Gardens** – situated on Institute Road, a tranquil ornamental walled garden which houses the Akeler Sundial by acclaimed sculptor Edwin Russell.
- 12 **Shopping and dining** – the town centre has an array of shops including popular designer brand stores, boutiques and other independent retailers. There are an excellent choice of dining venues including a Michelin star restaurant, gastropubs, traditional English pubs and a host of other cuisines.
- 13 **Shelley House** – a plaque on number 104 West Street marks the home of poet Percy Bysshe Shelley and his wife Mary Shelley who wrote Frankenstein whilst living there.
- 14 **Rebellion Brewery** – Marlow's brewing tradition dates back centuries and this popular brewery and shop is open year round for tours and tasting.
- 15 **Marlow Common** – great fun to explore and discover the First World War training trenches.

## River walks

Strolling by the river is one of Marlow's greatest pleasures. You can follow its banks in either direction for easy, level walks with some wonderful scenery.

### Upstream

**Temple Lock** (3 miles return) with a lovely view of Bisham Church on the opposite bank.

**Hurley** (4.5 miles return) a small village home to one of the oldest inns in the world 'The Olde Bell' and the perfect spot for riverside picnics.

**Hambleden** (11.5 miles return) with the picturesque lock, a series of weirs and Hambleden Mill you can cross the river here to catch a bus back to Marlow.

**Henley** (16 miles return) a delightful town famous for its Royal Regatta. You can catch a bus back to Marlow from Henley.

### Downstream

**Bourne End** (6 miles return) pass the wooded slopes of Winter Hill rising on the opposite bank as you leave the town and follow the path through meadows to Bourne End.

**Cookham** (8 miles return) from Bourne End cross the river at the railway bridge and continue for a further mile onto Cookham which is home to the Stanley Spencer Gallery.

**Maidenhead** (15 miles return) a bustling town with its 18th-century road bridge and Brunel's famous 'Sounding Arch'.

**Windsor** (29 miles return) beyond Maidenhead the river becomes busier and in places there are views of grand homes finishing with the grandest of them all, Windsor Castle, towering above the water.

For more information on walking and cycling in Marlow and the surrounding area visit Marlow Visitor Information Service where you will find a variety of leaflets, maps and books.

